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OLC 71-2076

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1 December 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Conversation with Senator John Stennis
Re New DDCI and Intelligence Budget

1. Today the Director told me of a phone conversation with Senator Stennis on the above subjects. The Senator said he was concerned because the confirmation of a new Deputy Director would provide a springboard for the Senate for an investigation of the Agency, and he commented he never understood why the Deputy had to be a military man. The Director replied that he saw no reason for it now and recalled that originally Senator Russell thought it wise to have a military man in the position but later changed his mind. Senator Stennis said he would like to see the practice changed and felt it would be very helpful if the President nominated a civilian.

2. The Director said he didn't expect to have much say in the nomination but if the Senator had strong views on the matter it might be useful for him to convey them to the right person rather than for the Senator to wait until the decision was made and then have to oppose it.

3. Senator Stennis then turned to the problem of the national intelligence budget, remarking that he had talked to Senator Ellender and felt that prompt action should be taken. He said they might not remain in session beyond next week, and if they waited until January they might have trouble. He said things should be worked out so there would not have to be any more amendments. He said he had talked to Ellender and Ellender wanted to talk to the Director. He said Ellender's initial reaction to the new arrangement for handling the budget was "not bad" but he wanted to discuss it with the Director. Senator Stennis went

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on to say that the trouble was the money was secret--originally it was [redacted] but now it had grown so that something had to be done about it. He asked the Director to "put his fellows to work on it." He added that if it were whittled down to the nub he thought the membership could agree to limit knowledge of the details to a very small number. The Director agreed to do what he could.



JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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